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REDS CONVERGING ON HAMHUNG

"Naval Vessels Lying Off Ready For Any Eventuality"

COMMENT

High hopes of an early cessation of Korean hostilities are receiving little by way of stimulation. It is difficult to disagree with Sir Benegal Rau's insistence that the prime objective must be to effect a truce, leaving the details for subsequent negotiation. Once cease-fire orders had been issued, a resumption of the conflict would be most unlikely.

Unfortunately, a degree of over-optimism appears to have prevailed in Lake Success, and as a result a sense of frustration is now emanating. It seems reasonably certain that General Wu, the chief Peking representative, encouraged Sir Benegal to believe that the 13-nation appeal for a halt on the 38th Parallel was receiving earnest consideration by the Peking Government. Nothing was, however, promised and no assurances were given. And the impression grows that Peking was merely probing for appeasement.

The British point of view is, of course, that the Indian initiative was helpful and constructive, and as our only desire is to bring an end to the fighting as swiftly as possible, it was encouraged. But when Peking contributes something substantial to the negotiations, that will be time enough to talk in terms of peace.

Time for Unity

There is complete agreement, says Mr Attlee, between the British and American peoples on the objectives of peace and freedom for all men. None in the Western countries, apart from Communist fellow-travellers, can fail to support that view.

As Mr Attlee stated, "when the ideals for which we stand are threatened we react in the same way instinctively." Mr Attlee was speaking of the members of the Commonwealth but his words also apply to the British and American nations.

In time of crisis there is a closing of the ranks, and the few recriminatory attacks in Britain on American conduct of the war only serve to emphasise the wider, basic unity between the two peoples.

British Brigades Move To New Positions Near Parallel

Tokyo, Dec. 11.

Chinese Communist forces estimated at nearly 100,000 men were today converging on the 15-mile Tobruk-like perimeter around Hamhung and the port of Hungnam to the south.

It was being defended by the battered American Third Division and two South Korean Divisions.

Meanwhile, North Korean forces, which have been reported to be regrouping and reorganising for some weeks were now concentrating in the Sibyon sector, 20 miles north of the 38th Parallel, General MacArthur announced.

The Allied Eighth Army, out of contact on its main front now for nearly a fortnight, was believed to be very near the Parallel separating the two Koreas if not actually below it.

Today's communique simply said that United Nations defence lines were being "improved".

The British Commonwealth Twenty-Seventh and Twenty-Ninth Divisions were maintaining new positions and patrolling their sector without enemy contact.

Pilots reported that powerful Communist forces moving south toward the concentration areas from Manchuria had still not yet reached Pyongyang.

The Air Force claimed to have killed or wounded 1,900 Communists, mainly in the north-west, in coastal attacks yesterday. Convoys were scattered by night bombers. — Reuter.

READY FOR ANYTHING

Hungnam, Dec. 12.

With all United Nations forces back in one large defence perimeter with the nerve centre at Hungnam, a Tenth Corps announcement said today, "our naval vessels lie off Korean coastal waters ready for any eventuality."

Marines got more than 2,000 trucks out of the Chosin trap along with the troops. They left nothing undestroyed for the Communists to capture and they claimed the destruction of three entire Chinese Communist divisions and one regiment each of three other divisions which attacked them since November 27.—United Press.

Paris Reds Clash With Police

Paris, Dec. 11.

Communists, called out into the streets to protest German rearmament on Monday, clashed with French police guarding the presidential palace.

Scattered fist-fights broke out in front of the palace between more than 2,000 Communist demonstrators and police and security guards.

Four thousand French police were on duty around the palace, and 6,000 more on alert in case reserves were needed to stem Communist violence.

Fights broke out when the police herded chanting demonstrators off the fashionable Rue Faubourg St. Honore.

Moving down the Rue Faubourg St. Honore, which runs in front of the Elysee Palace, the police, shoulder to shoulder, pushed the crowd back three blocks, where they began to disperse.

The demonstrators stopped to hiss and boo in front of the British embassy and the United States Information Service on the way, but then went on. There was no need for the police to use their clubs.—United Press.

CHURCHILL RUMOUR SCOTCHED

New York, Dec. 11.

Mr Clement Attlee took off from Idlewild airfield for London at 2325 GMT today.

The Prime Minister went aboard the special British Overseas Airways plane after momentous conferences.

He termed reports that Mr Winston Churchill might become a member of the Attlee government "perfectly ridiculous." He added with some emphasis, "There is no foundation for that at all. They don't understand how things are in England."

He conferred for nearly an hour with leading British Labour Party leaders and with members of the British delegation to the United Nations. He declined to reveal the contents of their discussion.

Asked whether he expected to make a report to the House of Commons on Tuesday, he said, "I can't say I will at present."

A Foreign Office spokesman said, however, that he expected Mr Attlee to address the House of Commons to answer questions concerning his mission to the United States. Mr Attlee was forced to return to New York on Monday when snow conditions at Montreal disrupted his plans to board the special plane there for London.—United Press.

Europeans Killed In Singapore Riots

Singapore, Dec. 11.

Two Europeans were found dead and one injured some three and a half miles outside Singapore tonight after the day of Moslem rioting in the city over the fate of "Jungle Girl" Bertha Hertogh.

Twenty-five people—15 Europeans and Americans and 10 Asians—were in hospital.

At least three people were known to have been killed. Scores were posted as missing and hundreds were injured during the 12 hours of bloody rioting.

Troops and police were still patrolling the city's debris-littered streets tonight, as 13-year-old Bertha, central figure in the violent controversy, slipped out under police escort from the Good Shepherd Convent where she has been awaiting a final decision on her future.

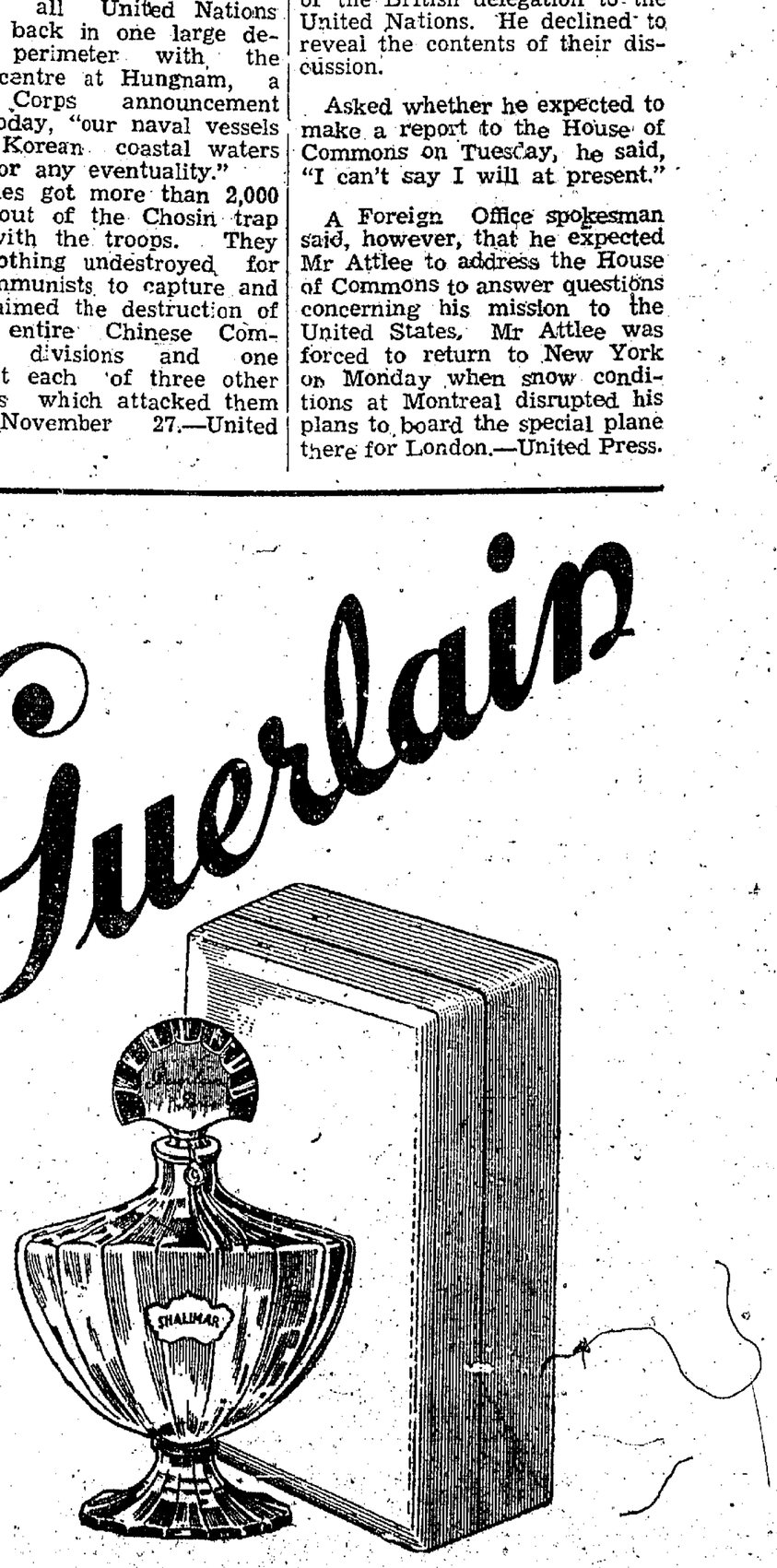
Radio Malaya said that she had been taken to "another place in Singapore".

A police riot squad had stood guard over the Convent during the rioting.

Tonight British security troops were ready to help the civil police and 300 men of the Malay Regiment keeping watch for any further outbreak of trouble.

As the violence died down after nightfall, the authorities called in 30 armoured cars and two battalions of crack Gurkha troops to reinforce the soldiers and police still patrolling the streets.

The reinforcements were reported to be on their way from Johore as the authorities checked the casualties in the day's rioting late tonight.—Reuter.

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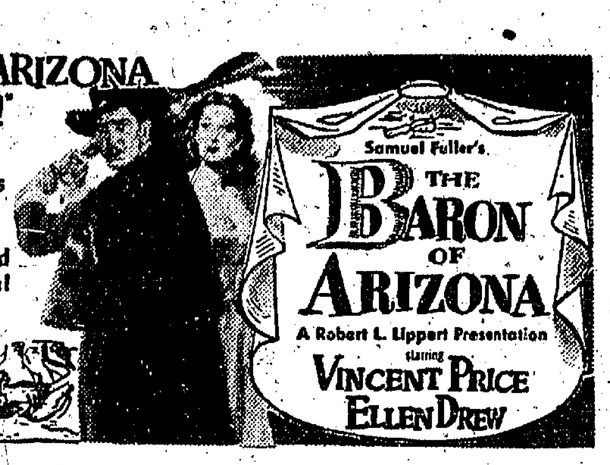
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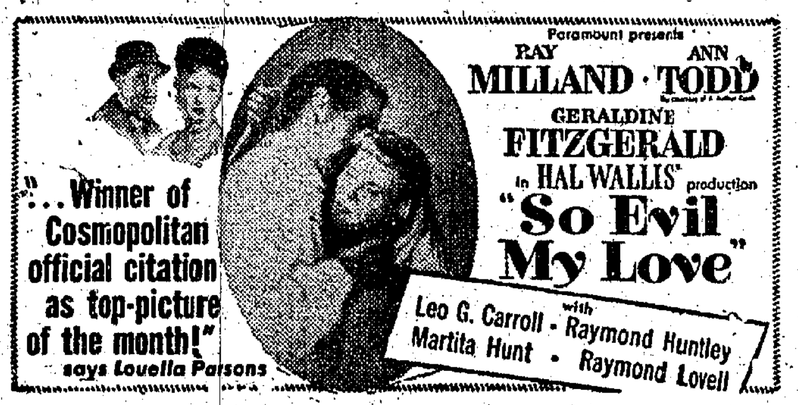
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A PARAMOUNT PICTURE.

Outdoor Privacy Invaded



These young patients of an Orthopedic hospital in Plymouth are having their outdoor privacy invaded by some foxhounds, escorted by scarlet-clad hunters on horseback. The bed-ridden children enjoyed making friends with the dogs, horses and human beings.

TRUMAN EXPECTED TO DECLARE U.S. NATIONAL EMERGENCY THIS WEEK

Washington, Dec. 11.

President Truman is expected to declare a "state of national emergency" this week putting the American economy on a semi-war footing.

The declaration would not give the President many additional powers but it would bring home to the nation the urgency of the present threat of war and the need for sacrifices.

It would thus evoke the public's backing of any need to impose wages and price controls and, possibly, limited rationing.

President Truman will outline his proposals to the National and Congressional Committees of both the main parties at the White House on Wednesday.

According to present plans he will follow this up with a broadcast to the nation.

Imposition of drastic economic controls in the coming months should enable the United States to raise armament production and conserve for it many of the strategic raw materials for which members of the Atlantic alliance have been competing in world markets.

Senator Robert Taft (Republican, Ohio), head of the Senate Republican Policy Committee, and arch critic of the Administration's policy, was one of those invited to the White House conference on Wednesday.

NO DELAY

It will be the first time since the outbreak of the Korean war last June that Mr Taft, who won a spectacular victory in the November election, has been brought into the Administration's emergency consultations.

A White House announcement today said that the Congressional leaders were being called "to discuss matters concerning the proclaiming of a national emergency and related matters."

It added that the President "is particularly anxious now as always to continue and strengthen the bi-partisan approach to these matters."

Indications were that the Administration was coming round to the view that action in the wage-price field must be taken without much more delay. There were hints that something might be done before the week-end.

ECONOMIC CONTROLS

The White House said that Mr Truman had discussed the question of declaring a national emergency with his Democratic Congressional lieutenants this morning.

It would be considered again at an afternoon session with his economic advisers.

Mr Truman will also meet the National Security Council, his top Advisory Board, on steps needed for national defence.

Among the President's other callers today were the men he has chosen to handle economic controls and some of those who administered them during and after World War II.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr Sam Rayburn (Democrat, Texas) told the press today he assumed that Mr Truman wanted to get the Congressional leaders' reaction on Wednesday before announcing a decision.

A White House announcement said that the Congressional group was being called to the White House "to discuss matters concerning the Proclaiming of a national emergency and related matters."

It added that the President "is particularly anxious now as always to continue and strengthen the bipartisan approach to these matters."

Earlier the President summoned his chief home front economic advisers to the White House for a conference. The conference was called as Mr Truman considered issuing an emergency proclamation to pave the way for stringest new economic controls.

Those asked to come included Mr W. Stuart Symington, the Chairman of the National Security Resources Board, members of the President's Council of Economic Advisers, Dr Alan Valentine, the Economic Stabilisation Director, the Price Administrator, Mr Michael V. Disalle, and Mr Cyrus Ching, Chairman of the Wage Stabilisation Board.

White House advisers said that wage and price controls were inevitable and much depended on how long it would take to set up the organisations to administer them.

The critical situation in Korea may hasten the build-up of these organisations.

Some of the President's principal economic advisers have already called for heavy new taxes and increased production.—Reuter.

MacArthur Under Fire

London, Dec. 11.

For the fourth time in 10 days the House of Commons today heard a Government spokesman say that General Douglas MacArthur did not go beyond the United Nations directives in Korea.

The Foreign Under-Secretary, Mr Ernest Davies, said: "Of course, it is quite clear that General MacArthur acted within the terms of the General Assembly resolution of October, which authorised him in the military sphere to go ahead in the way he did."

Mr Raymond Blackburn, independent Member, had asked the Minister to make this quite clear. He wanted it made plain that all members of the Government were committed to support the General Assembly's resolution, he said.—Reuter.

"MAO'S GHOST ARMY"

British Brigades Bewildered By Lack Of Action

Most Of Twenty-Ninth Units Have Yet To Fire A Shot

With the British Forces in Korea, Dec. 11.

The British troops in North Korea, bewildered by the almost complete lack of enemy pressure against the Eighth Army in its withdrawal towards the 38th Parallel, have dubbed the Chinese Communists "Mao's Ghost Army."

For the last week men of the 27th and 29th Brigades have neither seen nor heard anything of the masses of Chinese Communist troops reported to have poured across the Chongchon River and to be moving south towards the Parallel.

Apart from the Northumberland Fusiliers, who were in action against guerillas earlier this month, the bulk of the 29th Brigade have still to fire a shot.

British staff officers frankly confessed that they were puzzled by the way the United Nations withdrawal has been conducted. They believe a firm line, defended by well-trained stubborn troops, might have been established around Pyongyang and Chinnampo, which could have wrested the initiative from the Communists.

The tacit admission resulting from the Allied withdrawal that the Chinese Communists are too powerful, too numerous and too aggressive for the United Nations forces has produced the fatalistic attitude of "we have had it" among the Allied troops, the officers said.

But the British are extremely confident that they can handle almost anything that the Communists can throw at them.

VERY CRITICAL

British officers are very critical of the way in which thousands of dollars worth of military equipment, rations, ammunition and petrol were destroyed in and around Pyongyang.

Trained in a hard school where stores and equipment have always been issued sparingly and taught to preserve even the smallest nut and bolt, the sight of thousands of gallons of petrol going up in flames, thousands of tons of ammunition being blown up, railway trucks crammed with clothing, spare parts and rations set alight and destroyed, jeeps and trucks has dismayed them.—Reuter.

BRITISH SURPRISE

London, Dec. 11.

Authoritative British military sources today expressed surprise at the Chinese Communists' failure to follow up their drive down the west coast of Korea south of Pyongyang.

This failure to pursue, they said, suggested the possibility that, for the time being, the Communists may be planning to halt along the 38th Parallel.

Alternatively, they may have been held up by the intensive United Nations bombing effort, by problems of supply, and by the unexpected resistance on the ground.

The highest admiration for the Turkish Brigade in Korea is being expressed in British military circles. It is considered that their magnificent stand was a most important factor in slowing down a portion of the Communist advance.

Particular interest has been shown because military leaders here had had no opportunity of judging the fighting qualities of the Turks since their determined defence of Gallipoli against British troops in the 1914 to 1918 War.

The latest reports reaching here suggest that the heroism of the Turkish Brigade, about 5,000 strong, has cost them very heavy casualties, possibly amounting to one-fifth of their total strengh.—Reuter.

MOSCOW TURNS ON FINLAND

London, Dec. 11.

Radio Moscow today switched its cold war offensive against Finland, accusing that little country of attempts to "wreck normal relations with the Soviet Union".

The broadcast charged that moves were under way in Helsinki to convert Finland into a "willing tool of aggressive Anglo-American circles".

The charges were based on the efforts of the Agrarian Party Premier, Urho Kekkonen, to broaden the basis of his government and to include members of the Social Democratic Party in his Cabinet.

Quoting a report from the Soviet news agency in Helsinki, Moscow Radio said this was a sinister move on the part of reactionary circles to bring to the fore the former Socialist leader, Vaino Tanner, "mortal enemy of the USSR and a war criminal."

Diplomatic quarters here considered Moscow was "using a shallow pretext" to revive threats against the Scandinavians' Northern outpost.—United Press.

Final Plan For Europe To Be Shaped

London, Dec. 11.

Military Chiefs of the Atlantic Pact countries will shape their final plans for the defence of Western Europe at a meeting here tomorrow.

These plans will be dovetailed on Thursday into the political and non-military aspects of the organisation at a joint conference of the Chiefs of Staff and the deputies of the Foreign Ministers.

Later this month the Defence Ministers of the member nations will meet here to approve the recommendations which will then go for final decisions to the Atlantic Pact Council, comprised of the Foreign Ministers.

The Defence Ministers are likely to announce the appointment of General Dwight Eisenhower as the Atlantic Pact Supreme Commander.

German participation in Western European defence will be one of the main topics at tomorrow's meeting of the military chiefs.

They will work on the assumption that the German contribution should not exceed one-fifth of the total Western defence force and that German formations may comprise up to a brigade group in strength of about 6,000 men.

The Military Committee will meet without one of its key figures—General Omar Bradley, Chairman of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee. The Korean crisis has prevented him from coming to London.—Reuter.

Austrian Treaty Talks

Washington, Dec. 11.

The State Department today welcomed the announcement that the Austrian Treaty Deputies would meet in London on Friday.

But some informants, in touch with the position, expressed the belief that there was little ground for hoping that Russia and the West could agree on the Treaty.

The date for the meeting was named by the Russian delegate, Mr Zarubin, who will preside at Friday's meeting.

The Deputies, when they last met in September, agreed to meet in the middle of December and the calling of Friday's meeting was no surprise, officials said here.

One of them said, "We are very glad to sit down and try to reach agreement on the treaty. Its early conclusion is one of our principal hopes."—Reuter.

ILSE KOCH FEIGNING MADNESS

Augsberg, Dec. 11.

Ilse Koch, 43-year-old "Red Witch of Buchenwald" concentration camp, who is believed now to be feigning madness, was absent from her resumed trial here today for the murder of 36 camp inmates.

German doctors told the Court how Koch, who is also accused of complicity in another 145 murders and one attempted murder, flew into a frenzy in her cell last night.

She broke the furniture, shouted obscenities, skipped like a child and spoke of her "mortal sins." The German doctors, however, said that she reacted normally to questions and had asked: "Will you send me to the madhouse?"

Dr Rudolf Englert said that she was very subject to psychic conditions and had induced this breakdown to sabotage her trial. She would be fit to attend again after a short rest, he said.—Reuter.

French Retake Delta Post

Hanoi, Dec. 11.

Halu, a small post in the centre of the Tonkin Delta bridgehead, has been recaptured from Vietminh forces, a French Army communique announced tonight.

The communique said that, besides Halu, three other posts were harassed in the same area, about 15 miles south-east of Haiduong. Haiduong is a halfway town on the main road in the bridgehead linking Hanoi, the capital of Tonkin Province, with the main Delta port of Haiphong.

A French Army spokesman said tonight that a French patrol near the China border outpost of Dinhlap had met will strong Vietminh resistance.—Reuter.



READY TO DUCK—Crouching in a foxhole, Gerhard Rabiger, bomb disposal expert of the West-Berlin police, pulls on the steel control wire of an "Extraktor." This new device, fastened to bomb in background, has a drum which revolves and unscrews the fuse.

Queens

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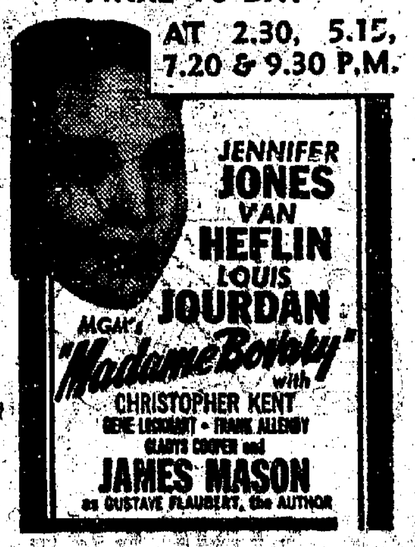
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— TO-MORROW —
INGRID BERGMAN
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"STROMBOLI"



CENTURION tanks now in action for the first time in Korea. Production of the Centurions has increased 50 percent since the British Government announced its new defence programme. The 50-ton fighting vehicle is powered by a Meteor engine, an adaptation of the Rolls Royce Merlin.

PRO-RUSSIAN BLOC IN CONTROL OF VIETMINH

Drastic Purge Of Nationalists

Hanoi, Dec. 11.

The pro-Soviet bloc has seized control of the rebel Vietminh party and is carrying out a drastic purge of nationalists who oppose the growing infiltration of Chinese Communists in military operations, rebel dissidents said today.

So far the purge has been bloodless, informants said, but the real trouble may come as more and more Chinese Red military authorities enter the country to take posts of authority.

Two followers of the rebel leader, Ho Chi-minh, said in an interview that the pro-Soviet bloc had put avid Communists in nearly all posts of power which Nationalist-minded rebels had held.

As a result of the purge, the informants said, practically all Democratic Party members who had merged with the Indo-Chinese Communists to form the Vietminh movement in 1941 had been expelled from posts of importance.

The sources said these and other Nationalist elements had objected to infiltration of Chinese Reds on the ground that if they continued coming into the country they would completely dominate Tonkin, the northern province bordering China.

POLITBURO FORMED

Communists in Vietminh have now set up a Politburo called Bo Tong, which runs the entire movement, and the Communist Party is operating openly in all Vietminh-held Indo-China, the informants said.

Formerly, the Party had stayed in the background.

The rebels said that, whereas Ho Chi-minh's picture used to be the only one Vietminh showed, his portrait was now flanked by pictures of Josef Stalin and of Mao Tse-tung.

Chinese Reds are now being called "brother", the informants continued and an intense propaganda campaign had been started to wipe out the centuries-old hatred and distrust of Chinese by the Indo-Chinese.

NOT TITOISM

The rebels warned against any wishful thinking that the purge of nationalists had weakened the Vietminh or created a split which might create a big dissident "Titoist" movement.

Such a possibility might be foreseen if the Vietminh drove the French from the country, but hatred of the French was so great that the Indo-Chinese would prefer even Communist domination to rule by the French or by the Vientnam Emperor Bao Dai, whom the French sponsor.—United Press.

ATTLEE TO REPORT TO CABINET

London, Dec. 11.

The Prime Minister, Mr Clement Attlee, is likely to call the Cabinet and report to it on his Washington talks almost immediately after he arrives here by air tomorrow morning.

Mr Attlee may decide to give the House of Commons a full statement on his talks tomorrow afternoon. But if he is very tired after his trip the statement may be postponed till Wednesday.

The Cabinet met today and discussed final arrangements for the important House of Commons debate in the Washington talks arranged for Thursday.

Mr Winston Churchill, Conservative leader, and Mr Anthony, his deputy, will be the principal speakers in the debate, and Mr Attlee may make a second speech on the talks to wind up the discussion.

The House of Lords will also debate the Washington talks on Thursday.

Members of Parliament are waiting anxiously to hear from Mr Attlee the steps to be taken to speed up the defence programme.

They also want to know the full story of the action taken to seek a settlement on Korea, and what can be expected from the reported negotiations with the Chinese Communists at Lake Success.—Reuter.

INCIDENT AT LONDON AIRPORT

London, Dec. 11.

Mr Vithal S. Banarse, an Indian businessman in London who was detained for four hours by Customs officials at the airport on Saturday following the finding of nine gold bars in the sari worn by his 14-year-old niece, said today that he did not know if proceedings were being taken against either or both of them.

Mr Banarse told Reuter that the value of the gold was something like £2,000. It came from women's ornaments which had been melted down. "I know nothing about it," he added. "Why am I being connected with it?"

When detained Mr Banarse and his niece were about to board an Air Ceylon airliner for Bombay. His niece was searched by a woman official.

"I saw her being taken away by Customs officials," he said. "She was questioned for four hours. So was I." The plane left without them.

Mr Banarse or his niece or their agent have a month under English law in which to claim the return of the gold bars, failing which they become the property of the Crown without formality.

If the return of the seized property is claimed, the Customs authorities take what are called "condemnation proceedings," in which they ask the Court to declare that the goods were legally seized and must be forfeited.—Reuter.

AA Experts To Confer

London, Dec. 11.

Anti-aircraft commanders of seven Atlantic Pact nations and representatives of the American forces in Europe will meet here tomorrow for a three-day conference to discuss air defence problems, it was officially announced tonight.

The War Office, making the announcement, said that the European countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation have been building up their anti-aircraft defences based on experience gained by Britain during the last war.

Also present, in addition to the Americans, will be representatives of the Western Union Headquarters at Fontainebleau. —Reuter.

Anglo-Egyptian Treaty Talks

London, Dec. 11.

A further meeting between the Egyptian Foreign Minister, Salah El Din Bey, and Mr Ernest Bevin, the Foreign Secretary, will be held next Friday, the Foreign Office spokesman said today.

The talks concern the Anglo-Egyptian treaty of 1936.

According to one usually well-informed source, the Egyptian Foreign Minister has again raised the possibility of replacing the bilateral defence arrangement with Britain by a form of association with the 12 signatories of the North Atlantic Pact similar to that entered into by Greece and Turkey.—Reuter.





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Jordan Offends British MP

London, Dec. 11.

Mr Ian Mikardo, Labour Member of Parliament, protested in the House of Commons today against Jordan's recent refusal to grant him an entry visa.

He urged the Government to suppress payments to Jordan, but the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr Ernest Davies, refused. Mr Mikardo asked him if he thought it proper for a country, "which could be bankrupt in three months without the money voted by this House," to exclude a British Member of Parliament, whoever he might be.

Mr Davies said that the Government very much regretted that Members of Parliament were not free to travel anywhere they chose, but if visas were refused to some they might be comforted to think that their speeches in Parliament had been noted.—Reuter.

Indonesia Premier Pessimistic Over New Guinea Issue

Djakarta, Dec. 11.

The Indonesian Prime Minister, Dr Mohamed Natsir, said today he was pessimistic about the future of Dutch-Indonesian relations if the dispute over Western New Guinea were not settled by 1951.

He said this after the Indonesian Cabinet had held a special closed session to discuss the question.

He declined to reply when asked if he thought a compromise were still possible at the Indonesian-Dutch talks at The Hague on the future status of the area, now administered by Holland and claimed by his country.

His Government, he said, had instructed its delegation there to continue the discussions.

The Dutch and Indonesian delegations were striving strenuously to find some measure of agreement on the future status of Western New Guinea, according to a communique issued at the end of a joint conference at the Hague today.

Describing the meeting as a plenary informal session, the communique said that the chairman of the Indonesian delegation clarified in a written note the Indonesian viewpoint already expressed in an oral note communicated to the conference last week.

The chairman of the Dutch delegation said he would reserve the right to answer this Indonesian explanation later in writing.

The communique added that both delegations had decided to hold further informal discussions to find out whether it was possible to bridge the gulf between the viewpoints of the delegations. Discussions will start tomorrow afternoon.—Reuter.

British Defence Planning In Middle East

London, Dec. 11.

British diplomacy is advocating broadening of Western defence arrangements in the Middle East, with other interested powers, including Egypt, sharing Britain's responsibilities.

Two alternative plans are being suggested here to meet the growing demand for fortified Western strategic posts in the Middle East. In the light of the Anglo-Egyptian conflict over the British-controlled Suez Canal base, they are:

1. Creation of an Anglo-Egyptian joint defence council to share full responsibility for the Canal base and defence of Egypt.

2. Extension of the North Atlantic Pact to Egypt by offering the latter associate membership and a link, together with Turkey and Greece, with the Mediterranean group of the Pact, which includes Britain, France and Italy.

3. This alternative envisages joint participation in the Middle East defence system by powers who have a vital interest in keeping Russia out of the Indian Ocean. This group would include, in addition to Britain and Egypt and other smaller Middle Eastern powers, six of the British Dominions.

Behind these considerations is mounting anxiety over the "vacuum" in Middle Eastern defence. Britain, supported by the United States, insists that British withdrawal from the Canal Zone now would be tantamount to an invitation to Soviet aggression. Strategists say that the Middle East—a glittering prize in itself because of its vital oil supplies and communication routes—might become a back door through which Russia may be tempted to infiltrate and cut through a Western lifeline.

EGYPT'S FAILURE

By demanding British withdrawal from the Suez, Egypt is accused of failing to realise these potential dangers to the West and to herself.

These are the broad outlines of the discussions between the Foreign Secretary, Mr Ernest Bevin, and the Egyptian Foreign Minister, Mohamed Salah el Din, which opened here a fortnight ago and are to be continued next Friday after a week's break for consultation.

Officially, little has transpired from the hours-long talks of the two Ministers, both sides being anxious not to prejudice prospects of an understanding by premature publication of still existing differences.

British diplomacy is anxious to reach a solution by way of compromise. It has remained strictly opposed to all-out evacuation of the base, claiming strategic considerations in support of its refusal.

Egypt has made it plain that nothing short of British evacuation will satisfy her ultimately.

Joint defence moves are proposed as a way out of the dilemma—as a middle course solution between continued British control of the Suez Canal base and outright evacuation.—United Press.

CYNICAL VIEW OF VYSHINSKY OFFER

Lake Success, Dec. 11.

Highly reliable American sources said today that Russia has offered assurances that Chinese Communist troops will be withdrawn from Korea if Peking is given an equal voice in the settlement of Formosa's future.

These sources said the assurances were given by Russia's Foreign Minister, Andrei Vyshinsky, to Roberto Urdaneta, of Colombia, chairman of the United Nations General Assembly's main political committee, at a private dinner at the Soviet delegation's official residence last Friday.

The disclosure of this Soviet attitude came together with reported assurances from Communist China that its troops will not cross the 38th parallel.

Mr Vyshinsky is reported to have told the Colomban: "Formosa is the critical issue, not Korea." He said Moscow could not order Peking to pull its troops out of Korea because "the Chinese People's Government is a sovereign government on its own," but made it clear, Latin American sources said, that Russia would assure a withdrawal of Peking's troops.

The first reaction of Western observers to the Vyshinsky-Urdaneta conversation was that it was another blow in the Kremlin's attempt to split the United States and her Western allies on the Far Eastern question.—United Press.

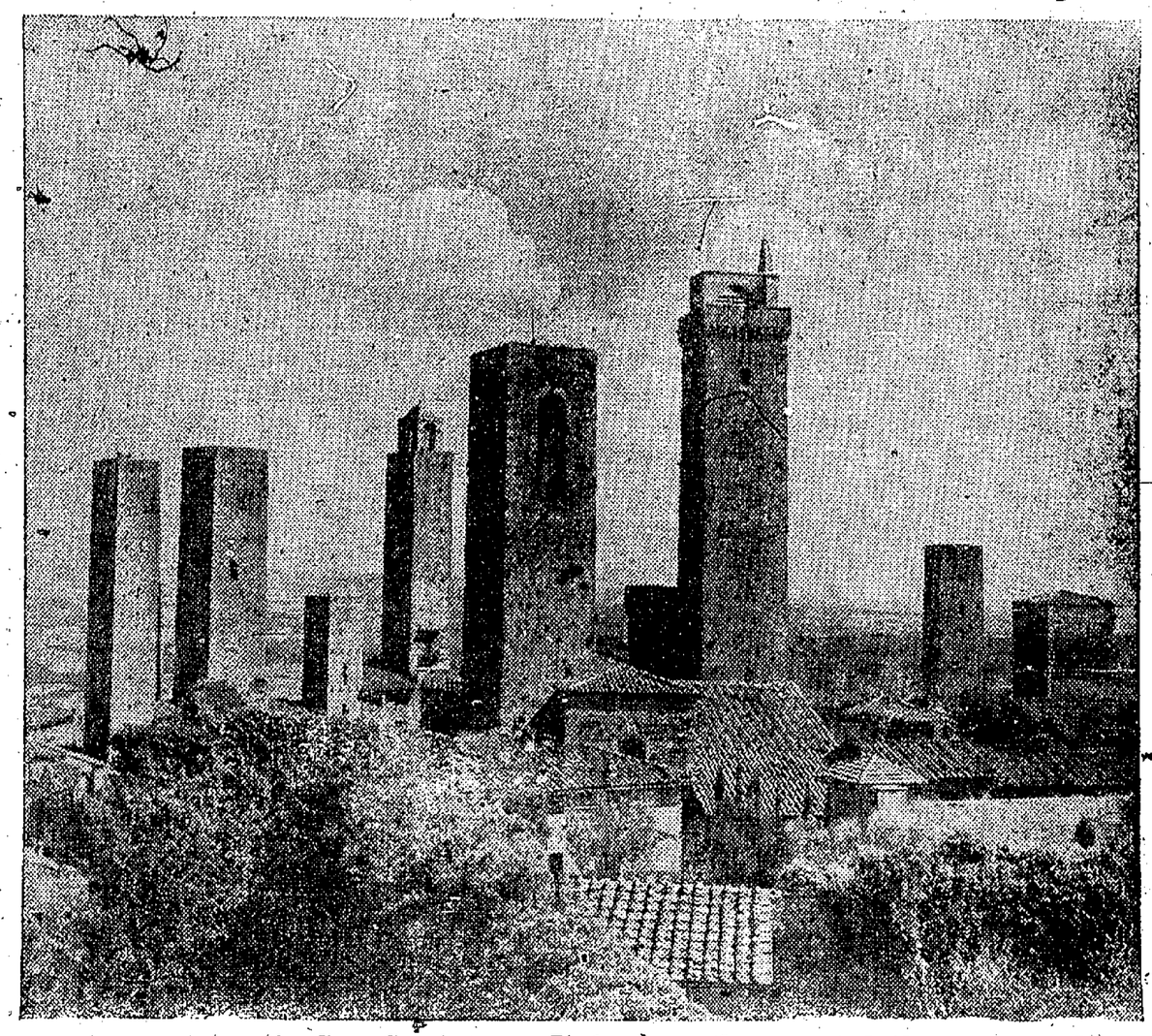
US Fleet Games Off Sicily

Augusta, Sicily, Dec. 11.

The 45,000-ton American aircraft carrier, Coral Sea, and several other ships of the United States Mediterranean Fleet sailed into this East Sicilian port today.

They were said to be proparing for exercises between Sicily and Malta to test the co-ordinated action of planes and ships. A total of 19 vessels, including heavy and light cruisers, aircraft carriers, destroyers and torpedo boat-chasers was expected to take part.—Reuter.

No Go—It Is To Stay



A newspaper in San Gemignano, Italy, recently reported that a wealthy American tourist had purchased one of these world-famed medieval towers in the town to ship to Illinois. But the plans fell through when authorities refused him an export licence.

Korea Executions: MP's Demand For British Protest

London, Dec. 11.

Mr Tom Driberg, Labour Member of Parliament, today called on the Government to protest to South Korea at the shooting of 56 political prisoners.

Mr Driberg said in the House of Commons that the prisoners were shot by South Korean police without trial at Sariwon, North Korea, on or about December 6.

Mr Ernest Davies, Foreign Under-Secretary, replied that those responsible for the incident were North Korean guards.

"The incident occurred in North Korea. The question of representations to the Government of the Republic of Korea does not, therefore, arise," he added.

Mr Davies said that he had been assured that investigations were being made by the Civil Assistance Authority of the Unified Command, who were doing their best to trace those responsible.

Mr Driberg suggested that the Minister had been misinformed when he said that North Korean guards were responsible, because the account which appeared in various newspapers was "an eye-witness account from the Reuter correspondent who was on the spot at the time."

(A Reuter's news message of Dec. 6 said that the atrocity was carried out by Korean civil police at Sariwon in North Korea. They were not further identified).

ARMY RESPONSIBLE

Mr Davies said: "These North Korean guards were acting on behalf of the Unified Command. Since this incident I understand that the American military police have disarmed those responsible for this."

Mr Sydney Silverman (Labour) suggested that as the incident took place in North Korea the Syngman Rhee Government of South Korea would have no responsibility. That would lay directly with the United Nations Command.

Mr Davis replied: "Yes, these North Korean guards were acting for the Unified Command."—Reuter.

Yugoslav Amnesty

Belgrade, Dec. 11.

Yugoslavia is to free 177 political prisoners in Bosnia and Herzegovina under a Government amnesty, Belgrade Radio announced tonight.—Reuter

Kyushu Tragedy: 25 Feared Dead

Tokyo, Dec. 11.

Fourteen persons were drowned and 11 others were missing when a 725-ton cargo boat capsized in the sea north west of Kyushu Island on Sunday night.

Rescuers picked up five survivors and 14 corpses.

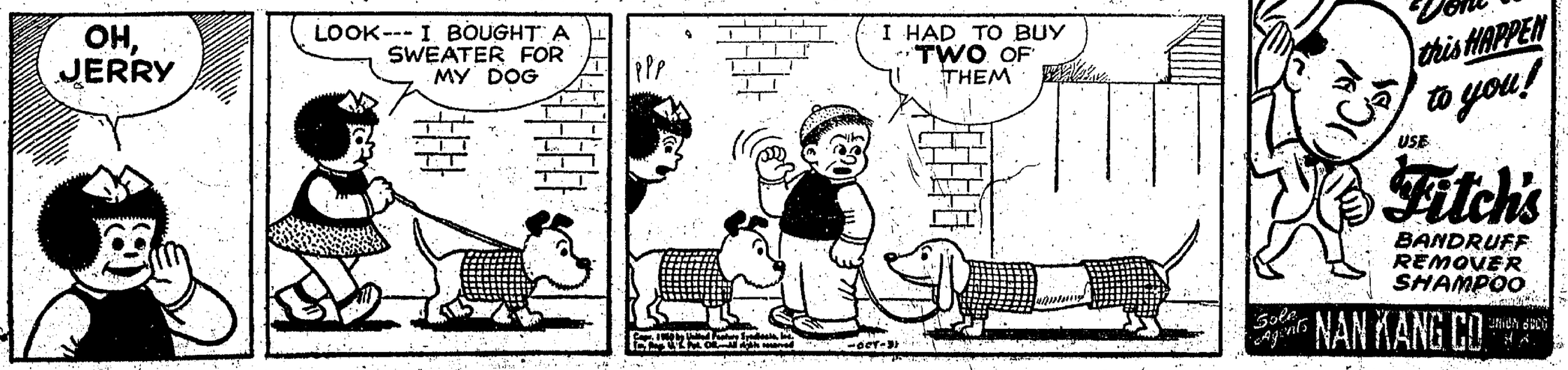
Hope for the remainder of the 30-man crew was slim. The cause of the disaster was reported by ships in the vicinity as high seas.—Reuter.

Detective Opens Fire

A detective on patrol this morning shot and wounded a suspicious character who refused to stop to submit to a search.

The detective observed two men acting in a suspicious manner beside a parked car about 5 a.m. He called to them but they took flight. The Police officer followed the two who separated after running a short distance. The detective continued his chase after one and again called on him to stop. He refused to take warning and the detective fired and injured the man, named Man Pui-fai, in the leg. Man was taken to Kowloon Hospital and his condition was described as not serious.

NANCY Oh, Dachsh!" By Ernie Bushmiller



ARSENAL LUCKY AGAIN IN DRAW FOR THE THIRD ROUND OF THE FA CUP

London, Dec. 11.

Probably the outstanding feature of the FA Cup third round draw today is the continued luck of the Arsenal club. Last season they won the Cup without playing out of London, being drawn at home in every round until the semi-final, when they had the luck to get the London game of that round against Chelsea, and then of course they won the final at Wembley.

Once again they are drawn at home, but Carlisle are quite happy about affairs. Their manager is Bill Shankly, a guest player with Arsenal during the war, who says he knows "all the tricks" about Arsenal and his team will be very hopeful.

Liverpool, last season's beaten finalists, also meet a Third Division side in Norwich, who are strong contenders for the honours of the Southern Section.

Liverpool's task is probably harder than Arsenal's because Norwich are unbeaten at home this season and have not lost any of their last 13 games.

UP TO THE THIRD

As all the non-League clubs have been eliminated it is up to Third Division sides to provide any shocks—if any.

As all of them are at home this is quite possible. Rotherham, for example, are the leaders of the Northern Section and entertain Doncaster, who were the rivals for promotion to Division II last season.

Stockport, whose good show in last year's competition earned them exemption until the third round this year, may well beat Brentford at Stockport and there are several other Third Division teams with bright prospects.

Some of the best known First Division teams have to travel, notably Tottenham Hotspur, who will recall that a winning sequence was broken at Huddersfield two weeks ago.

Birmingham and Manchester City will not be strange to each other, for they meet in League games twice during Christmas and so meet three times within a fortnight.

Altogether it is an interesting draw, with several games far from being certainties for the side in the higher sphere of the League.—Reuter.

British Pair Win All-Asia Women's Doubles Title

Lahore, Dec. 11.

Mrs. A. J. Mottram and Miss Kay Tuckey, of Britain, today won the All Asia Women's Doubles title by defeating Miss Dorothy Head, of the United States, and Mrs Doleschell, of Austria, 6-2, 3-6, 6-4.

In the semi-finals of the mixed doubles, Miss Rita Anderson, of the United States, and Jaroslav Drobny, the self-exiled Czech star playing for Egypt, beat Miss Jean Ingram, of Britain, and John Link, of Holland, by 6-2, 6-3, while Tony Mottram and Mrs Mottram (Britain) beat Miss Dorothy Head (US) and Alford Huber (Austria) by 6-3, 6-2.

Mrs Mottram also reached the Women's Singles final when she beat Mrs Doleschell 8-6, 6-2.—Reuter.

Rugger Results

London, Dec. 11.

The following were the results of Rugby Union games played today:

Cardiff (at home) beat Cambridge University by six points to nil.

United Hospitals (at Richmond) drew with Dublin Hospitals by three points to three.—Reuter.

George Tribe To Play For Northants

George Tribe, Australian all-rounder and former Test cricketer, now in India with the Commonwealth touring team will join Northamptonshire for the 1952 season.

He has a contract for 1951 with the Milnrow Club in the Central Lancashire League, and while completing it I understand he will be qualifying for Northants by residence.

He will be the second Australian to join Northants recently, L. A. Livingstone, who captained the Commonwealth team last winter, played for the county last summer.

In four years Northampton have almost completely rebuilt their team, mainly by special registration—the polite equivalent of a "transfer."

F. R. Brown, captain of the MCC team to Australia, joined Northants from Surrey in 1948: K. Fiddling, the wicket-keeper, left Yorkshire in 1946 and a year later R. Garlick came from Lancashire.

In 1948 F. Jakeman (Yorks) and A. E. Nutter (Lancs)—who may return to league cricket this year—arrived. So did reserve wicket-keeper D. Constable from Surrey.

Thus eight Northants players come from different counties.

—*(London Express Service)*

THE DRAW

London, Dec. 11.

The draw for the third round of the Football Association Cup matches to be played on January 6 was made today as follows:

Birmingham City v. Manchester City.

Derby County v. West Bromwich Albion.

Notts County v. Southampton.

Stockport County v. Brentford.

Rochdale v. Chelsea.

Brighton & Hove v. Chesterfield.

Bristol City v. Blackburn Rovers.

Mansfield Town v. Swansea Town.

West Ham United v. Cardiff City.

Hull City v. Everton.

Northampton Town v. Barnsley.

Manchester United v. Oldham Athletic.

Stoke City v. Port Vale.

Huddersfield Town v. Tottenham Hotspur.

Arsenal v. Carlisle United.

Leicester City v. Preston North End.

Bolton Wanderers v. York City.

Norwich City v. Liverpool.

Crewe Alexandra or Plymouth Argyle v. Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Charlton Athletic v. Blackpool

Newport County v. Reading.

Sunderland v. Coventry City.

Bristol Rovers or Gillingham v. Aldershot.

Grimsby Town v. Exeter City.

Newcastle United v. Bury.

Sheffield United v. Gateshead.

Fulham v. Sheffield Wednesday.

Rotherham United v. Doncester Rovers.

Aston Villa v. Burnley.

Luton Town v. Portsmouth.

Queen's Park Rangers v. Millwall or Bradford.

Leeds United v. Middlesbrough.—Reuter.

SPURS' FAMED DOUBLE ACT



The power and certainty of the athlete, and the poise of the ballet-dancer shine in this fine study of a Spurs' double act which has become famous. Ditchburn the goalkeeper, is beaten, as right-back, Ramsey comes to the rescue and clears with a header in the match against Newcastle United at White Hart Lane.

Ronnie Clayton Makes A Lonsdale Belt His Own Property

By ARCHIE QUICK

At last a boxer has overcome the hoodoo of winning his third British championship contest to make a Lonsdale Belt his own property. Ronnie Clayton, the curly-haired Blackpool boy, accomplished the feat by easily outpointing Jim Kenny, of Glasgow, to win a featherweight title fight for the third time. The win also meant that he retained his Empire Crown.

The last boxer to win a Lonsdale Belt outright was Freddie Mills, but he too—like Clayton and several others—never saw his property. Although Clayton won his first notch on the Belt three years ago it was announced from the Royal Albert Hall, London, ring when he beat Kenny that the prized emblem was at the jewellers. Freddie Mills said to me: "They aways are!"

The old Lonsdale Belts, given by the National Sporting Club, have been won outright by fifteen boxers. The new Board of Control Belts, instituted in 1929, carry with them a £1 a week pension at the age of 50, and Clayton is the ninth fighter to stake his claim.

SOME EXCUSE

I saw Kenny outpoint the Belgian, Mataerlinck, on the Glaswegian's only previous trip to London and I expected him to put up a better show against Clayton than he did. I made the first three rounds even and from thence onwards the champion won the other twelve rounds as he pleased.

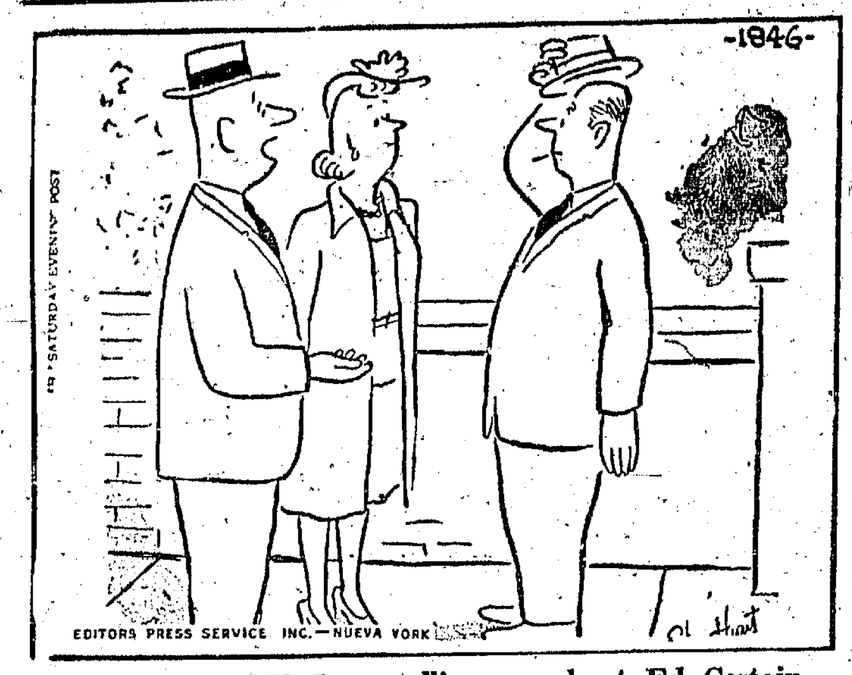
There was some excuse for Kenny as we learned afterwards that he had injured the top of his right forefinger in the fourth round and could not properly clench his glove. Even without this handicap, however, I doubt whether he could have withstood a man who reserves all his best displays for when his title is at stake.

Weight for weight, I would say that Clayton is our best champion now and the manner in which he clipped Kenny right out of the ring in the fourth round was in the style of a real worthy titleholder. We had the spectacle of the timekeeper standing over Kenny lying on a Press table, tolling out the seconds, Kenny getting entangled with the bell and having his pants ripped and then just scrambling through the ropes at the count of nine.

So far ahead was the champion after twelve rounds that I thought the referee could very well have stopped the contest to save the Scot further punishment as Jack Hart did when Lloyd Barnett was outclassed recently by Aaron Wilson. Nevertheless, I feel that Kenny has been brought to the front too soon. He might well be Champion in a year or two.

THE GAMBOLS by Bobby Appleby





"This is the wife I was telling you about, Ed. Certainly looks harmless enough, doesn't she?"

FOR THE BUSINESSMAN

Commons Question On Drawing From Sterling Balances

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

London, Dec. 11.

Mr Hugh Gaitskell, Chancellor of the Exchequer, is to be asked to scale down the rate at which Pakistan, India and Ceylon are to be allowed to draw on their Sterling balances to finance development schemes under the Colombo plan.

In a Parliamentary question which he has put down for the Chancellor tomorrow, Squadron-Leader Frederick Burden, Conservative, points out that the agreements recently concluded with India and Ceylon (negotiations for a similar agreement with Pakistan are still going on) will lead to a considerable increase in the flow of unrequited exports to these countries.

Squadron-Leader Burden says this outflow of unrequited exports will make it impossible for us to produce the extra £300,000,000 of exports which the Chancellor recenly said would be necessary next year to offset the deteriorating terms of trade.

Squadron-Leader Burden will therefore ask the Chancellor "if he will reopen negotiations with the governments named in an effort to reduce the flow of unrequited exports to a minimum."

Trade Mission To Japan

Tokyo, Dec. 11.

Thailand's nine - man trade mission to Japan is scheduled to arrive here tomorrow, according to the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry, quoted by the Kyodo news agency.

The Siamese mission is headed by Phra Nararaj Chamnong, Under-Secretary of Commerce.

The Japanese Government hoped that the coming of the Thai mission would facilitate negotiations for the import of rice from that country next year, the news agency reports. Japan desires to purchase 400,000 tons of rice during 1951.—Reuter.

London Tin Improves

London, Dec. 11.

Tin prices were harder at the morning session today. Turnover was 65 tons, including 15 tons for spot.

Prices closed today at the end of the official morning session as follow:—

Spot tin, buyers	1,140
Spot tin, sellers	1,145
Business done at	1,140
Three-months tin, buyers	1,040
Three-months tin, sellers	1,045
Business done at	1,040
Settlement	1,140

—United Press.

Bids Invited For Scrap Iron

Tokyo, Dec. 11.

The United States occupation authorities in Okinawa have invited some 200 firms in Japan and the United States to submit bids for 500,000 gross tons of scrap iron located on the island, General MacArthur's headquarters announced today.

A second lot of scrap iron, consisting of naval craft to be salvaged from the waters off the shore, were also offered to the bidders.

The bids will be opened in February.—Reuter.

Presenting the most stirring life history of our times, The Hongkong Telegraph begins today

THE CHURCHILL STORY

By Colin Frame

THE Rt Hon Winston Spencer Churchill, PC, OM, CH, TD, MP, was not what is fondly called "a nice little boy."

Wilful, restless, pugnacious, he roared through the nursery like some snub-nosed red-headed demon.

His parents, Lord Randolph Churchill (son of the Duke of Marlborough and later Chancellor of the Exchequer) and his beautiful American wife, Jenny Jerome (daughter of a New York newspaper proprietor) were too busy with social and political affairs to spend much time with him.

This was very much the age when "little boys must be seen and not heard" and the young Churchill took it upon himself to make his presence felt visually and orally so that his governesses gave up in despair and his parents acquired a habit of apology for him.

His Nurse

Only one person could handle this bundle of mischief—Mrs Everest of Chatham, his nurse.

To her he told his baby troubles. With her he felt free to discuss the whirling hopes and fears of his childhood mind.

Some of his happiest recollections are of Ventnor, where she took him to stay with her sister, wife of a prison warder.

Mrs Everest swore by Kent as the fairest spot on earth. And it may not be sheer coincidence that Churchill chose it as his country home.

Loyalty to her provoked two touching incidents in his schooldays. She was strongly anti - Roman Catholic, and when young Churchill found his prep school at Brighton was expected to turn to the East when reciting the Apostle's Creed he made his first public gesture of defiance.

He felt sure such turning would be denounced as Popish by Mrs Everest, so he stood stolidly still.

He later recorded in "My Early Life" how by masterly British compromise the problem was settled by seating the school facing East.

Loyalty

Then at Harrow, at a time when boys were extremely snobbish about what their visiting parents should wear and were embarrassingly touchy about being kissed, Mrs Everest, poke bonneted and dowdy, came to see her boy.

Churchill, in full view of his fellows, went up to her, kissed her roundly, and set off through the town with her on his arm.

Loyalty and courage, destined to serve an Empire so well, could hardly have been better demonstrated.

Some indication of what his family thought of him is that he was packed off to boarding school when he was seven. So, in the same year that Stalin began to crawl about the floor of his mother's wooden shack in Georgian Russia, Churchill in a flaming temper was caned, kicked his headmaster's hat to ribbons—and was caned again.

This school, an expensive one at Ascot, specialised in caning little boys—and little else.

"No Harrow boy of my day ever received such a cruel flogging as this headmaster was accustomed to inflict upon the little boys who were in his care and power," wrote Churchill in "My Early Life." "How I hated this school."

"Naughtiest Boy"

After two years he fell seriously ill and he was taken away to go to a school at Brighton where he was caned less often but where he was described by one mistress as "the naughtiest boy in the class—I used to think him the naughtiest small boy in the world."

He was never robust as a child. His chest was weak. That was why he was sent eventually to Harrow high on the hill, instead of the traditional, low-lying Eton of his family.

His entrance examination to Harrow must have struck a new low in scholastic enterprise. Churchill hated Latin and had learnt little of it.

His Latin paper, over which he had pored for two hours consisted of his name at the top of the page, the figure one in brackets, a blot and two smudges. That's all.

With that Puckish grin of his he later commented: "It was from these slender indications of scholarship that Mr Welldon (the headmaster) drew the conclusion that I was worthy to pass into Harrow. It is very much to his credit."

It certainly was. But Mr Welldon, later a distinguished churchman, had seen something that, up till then, no one (with the possible exception of Mrs Everest) had seen—those trailing clouds of glory which were later to envelop this freckled-faced and cheeky youngster.

"I think I may claim to have always felt a great faith in him" he wrote privately to a friend. "I do not mean I anticipated the full brilliance of his future life, but it is my deliberate judgment that he showed in his schooldays at Harrow the unmistakable promise of distinction."

This was almost psychic judgment. For there was little enough to work on. Churchill (under the family name of Spencer-Churchill he was alphabetically bottom of the school) managed to stay near the bottom of his class with insolent ease.

Result was that he learnt English while others learnt Latin and Greek. And since he stayed three times as long in one class as any other boy he learnt three times as much English.

Liked English

Looking back on this deplorable state of affairs in later life, he decided it was "an immense advantage" and the English-speaking world, enchanted with his prose, must be forever grateful to Mr Somervell who taught young Churchill English with painstaking regularity.

"Naturally," declared his pupil years afterwards. "I am biased in favour of boys learning English.

"I would make them all learn English; and then I would let the clever ones learn Latin as an honour and Greek as a treat. But the one thing I would whip them for is not knowing English. I would whip them hard for that."

Head Of Fags

At Harrow the excellence of his English essays served as a foil to his incredible dullness in other subjects. By arrangement, a sixth-former did his Latin exercises for him and he dictated—pacing up and down a study exactly as he does now—the sixth-former's essays for him.

But Mr Welldon who had few illusions about the sixth-former's English (and fewer about Churchill's Latin), soon spotted what was happening. About this time his photographic memory and expressive, lisping voice began to earn him fame. He won a prize open to the whole school for reciting 1,200 lines of Macaulay.

In one other activity shades of coming events cast a noticeable shadow—Churchill showed considerable skill at fencing.

He won the Public Schools Championship with the foils, chiefly, it is said, by surprise attack and dash. He had little use for any other school sport.

Because of his constantly lowly position, he was never allowed to have a fag. And the only position of responsibility he achieved at Harrow was Head of Fags, which meant that he finally escaped fagging itself but had to draft rotas and arrange fagging duties.

"An interesting being, but temporarily uppish," wrote an aunt about him at this time. The temporary uppishness was to last rather longer than she foresaw.

Never Won A Prize

He loved school sing-songs—Harrow has a heritage of song which is probably unique—although he was then and is now no vocalist. His grasp of melody is slight and wanders from key to key, but his memory of the songs he learnt as a boy is vivid.

And he still remembers five lectures he attended. The subjects are worth noting in view of his later development. One was on the battle of Waterloo, another on the battle of Sedan.

One was on butterflies—even this had a military flavour for he remembers chiefly how butterflies use camouflage and protective colouring to escape their enemies. The two others were on climbing the Alps and Empire Federation.

Apart from his English lessons, Churchill now remembers these lectures more clearly than anything else at Harrow.

Which rather goes to show that the infrequent school lecturer who takes pains to make his subject vividly alive can influence more deeply the mind and heart of some youngsters than all the years of classroom learning.

It used to be a standing joke that the great and successful men who visit schools on speech days to hand out prizes always said: "Of course, I never won a prize at school."

In the Churchill story this joke reaches its highest pinnacle.

Unhappy Period

Boys like young Winston Churchill never seem to fit into the school curriculum. They do not do so any more now than they did then. And the Churchill story is both an example and a comfort to them and their distressed parents.

Twelve solid years of schooling, the most expensive in Victorian England, left Churchill with this bitter comment: "I had hardly ever been asked to learn anything which seemed of the slightest use or interest, or allowed to play a game which was amusing.

"In retrospect these years form not only the least agreeable, but the only barren and unhappy period of my life. I was a happy child with my toys in the nursery. I have been happier every year since I became a man.

"But this interlude of school makes a sombre grey patch upon the chart of my journey."

STANDARD BRIDGE

PENALTY DOUBLE

By M. Harrison-Gray

Dealer South
East-West game.

N.
♠ 7 6 5
♥ 8 6 2
♦ Q 9 8 6 4
♣ Q 3

W.
♠ J 10 9 2
♥ J 9
♦ A K J 10 3
♣ 6 4

E.
♠ K 4
♥ Q 10 7 4
♦ 5 2
♣ J 9 7 5 2

S.
♠ A Q 8 3
♥ A K 5 3
♦ 7
♣ A K 10 8

The South hand should not be opened with a forcing Two Clubs. It contains 5½ quick tricks but does not qualify for a game-demand bid. One Club is correct. West bids One Diamond. North and East pass, and South makes a take-out double. North converts to a penalty double by passing. There is no game for North-South.

North leads ♣ 4 followed by ♣ 3. South wins with ♣ 10 and should cash ♥ K and ♥ A before leading ♣ K. If West trumps with ♦ 10, North does not over-ruff but discards his last Heart, thereby promoting an extra trump trick in his hand. West is probably held to four tricks.

London Express Service

PEACE BID RUNS INTO SNAGS

Presentation Of Positive Plan Likely To Be Delayed

Keystone: Who Will Handle Political Negotiations

Lake Success, Dec. 11.

The 13 nations who are trying to bring a cease-fire in Korea today ran into difficulties which may delay the presentation of a positive plan.

The difficulties appear to revolve round two points: (1) The composition of the proposed commission which would take over the political negotiations after a cease-fire, (2) The terms of reference of the Commission.

Britain and the United States are expected to support in principle a cease-fire in Korea provided that there are no political "strings" attached.

A United States spokesman said today that the 13-nation Asian resolution would be considered "on merit."

The main points in the resolution, which is expected to be introduced into the political Committee tomorrow, are as follows:

(1) Cessation of hostilities.

(2) Declaration of a cease-fire.

(3) Appointment of a commission to take up negotiations for a permanent settlement in Korea.

The main job of the 13 sponsoring powers today was expected to be a discussion of the composition and terms of reference of the proposed commission.

On the question of composition it has not yet been decided which of the following alternatives should be adopted.

(1) A commission consisting of Britain, the United States, Soviet Russia and France.

(2) These four powers plus India and, perhaps, some other Asian and Middle-Eastern countries.

(3) A strictly "neutral" commission which would not include any interested parties or Big Powers.

THE KEYSTONE

The general view is that the first alternative is most likely to win the maximum support.

The membership of the commission is seen as the keystone of the entire plan for a cease-fire.

The sponsors of the plan feel that it would increase the chances of overall settlement if the final draft of the plan were approved beforehand by the Peking Government.

The main purpose of the resolution, it was understood, was to find the widest possible area of agreement between all parties, leaving controversial issues to be negotiated later.

Most delegations here are convinced that no fruitful negotiations could be started until fighting ceased and a "line" was temporarily stabilised.

'TEMPORARY' CESSATION

There is doubt here whether the Soviet Union will support the proposed cease-fire resolution as it contains no reference to the withdrawal of foreign troops from Korea.

On the other hand, some observers believe that in view of the favourable military position of the Chinese Communists and North Koreans the Soviet Union might join the majority in calling for a temporary cessation of hostilities.

Before the 13-nation conference resumed its discussions this afternoon Sir Benegal Narsing Rau, chief Indian United Nations delegate, had a long talk with Sir Gladwyn Jebb and Mr Kenneth Younger, two of Britain's leading representatives to the United Nations, in the delegates' lounge.

Shortly afterwards Sir Gladwyn and Mr Younger left for Idlewild Airport where they were to see Mr Clement Attlee, the British Prime Minister, who was due to change planes there on his way from Canada to London.—Reuter.

NO INDICATIONS

Washington, Dec. 11.

The State Department said today that it has no information to indicate that the Chinese Communists will stop at the 38th Parallel in Korea.

It also has no indication that Peking has replied in any way to the 13-nation appeal for the Reds to refrain from entering South Korea, the State Department spokesman, Mr Micheal McDermott, said.

Mr McDermott declined to say whether the United States would agree to any conditions for getting the Chinese Communists to negotiate. He specifically declined to discuss a report that the Reds wanted equality at the conference table.

Mr McDermott said he would not try to anticipate what might develop from India's efforts for a cease-fire or what actions the United Nations might take.—United Press.

MALIK SOLUTION

Lake Success, Dec. 11.

Dr Malik (Lebanon), speaking today in the resumed debate on Korea by the United Nations General Assembly's Political Committee, said, "Only an independent and free China can restore the balance of power to the Orient and help restore the balance of power to the rest of the world".

The Korean, Formosan and other problems existed only because there was a fear that the delicate balance of power in the Far East had been upset because of China's dependence on and attachment to the Soviet Union.

Dr Malik said he believed that in the long run China would assert her independence. The only question was whether her present rulers had it in them to assert it.

PRACTICAL TEST

The problem also posed a crucial practical test of the Soviet Union's love of peace.

Dr Malik said, "I say to Mr Vyshinsky (chief Soviet delegate): You say you want peace; you say you will collaborate in the promotion of peace. Then help China achieve her independence of you. You know perfectly well that the formidable combination of power that you and China can form has frightened the world. It is necessary for peace that China must stand alone."

Dr Malik was the only speaker at this morning's session.

Before the Committee is a six-Power resolution calling for the withdrawal of Chinese Communist troops from Korea; and a Soviet counter-proposal calling for the withdrawal of United States and Allied forces.

The Committee has adjourned.—Reuter.

CRUCIAL FRONT IS IN EUROPE

Ottawa, Dec. 11.

The Attlee talks here and in Washington have shown that the United Kingdom, the United States and Canadian Governments are in agreement that Western Europe remains the crucial front for joint defence, the Canadian press news agency said today.

Informed quarters said that one result might be that Canada's 10,000-man special force would go to Europe, the news agency stated.

The reasoning behind this was based on the official belief that the worst thing that the West could do would be to get too heavily involved in Korea or any other relatively minor military front like it while Europe remained largely defenceless.

There was also the belief that the United Nations can, and should, hold on in Korea by keeping formations which are now there up to strength.

Thus, it would be no surprise here if the special force brigade group goes to Europe next year while the 2nd. Battalion of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry carries Canada's fighting banner in Korea.

The expectation here is that the Light Infantry will take another six to eight weeks to finish training in Japan or Korea and then be committed to the fighting line in Korea as part of the Commonwealth Brigade or Division.

An announcement of the Battalion's arrival at Yokohama is expected shortly.

Its place on the special force now training at Fort Lewis, Washington, has already been filled by the formation of a third battalion of the "Princess Pats."—Reuter.

HEAVY U.S. CASUALTIES

Washington, Dec. 11.

The Marine corps announced today that the 1st Marine Division suffered more than 30 percent casualties in its desperate and successful fight to break out of a Communist trap in Korea.

This implies possibly 6,000 to 7,000 casualties in the three infantry regiments making up the Division, although the Marine Corps have no specific figure.

The casualties included those taken out of action by frostbite.

General Clifton Cates, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, announced that he had received a report from General Lemuel Shepherd, the Commanding General, Fleet Marine Forces, Pacific, that he visited the Division on December 9 and found "that they are in high spirits from the Commanding General down and the troops have their tails up."—Reuter.



At the first sign of sun, Barbara Baker, 19, was off to the beach at Porthcawl, Glamorgan, to try out her new swim-suit under operational conditions. She ran down the beach, put one foot in the water, she skipped nimbly back, ran up the beach and changed. The try-out will have to wait. It was an October morning.

Gold Bars Seized

Turin, Dec. 11.

Italian Customs men, searching the night express to France at an Alpine frontier station, found 14 gold bars worth 12 million lire hidden in the ceiling of a third class ceach.

They confiscated the bars, which each weighed a little over two pounds. The authorities believe that they are on the track of a widespread illicit traffic in gold bars between Italy and France.—Reuter.

CALCUTTA ALARM

Calcutta, Dec. 11.

Press reports reaching here tonight said Chinese Communist troops have been seen a few miles from the frontier between India and Tibet. The strength of the Chinese forces and the nature of their operations were not given.

Reports from Shillong, capital of the Indian border state of Assam, said that troops were sighted near the northeastern tip of the state.

Evening newspapers splashed the news across front pages, but no official confirmation or comment could be obtained. There was no indication that Indian territory has been infringed.

Unofficial quarters said that Chinese troops engaged in a campaign to "liberate" Tibet have been known to be operating in the disputed area of Kham. The Chinese claim it is part of Sikang province proper but it has been administered from Lhasa for many years.—United Press.

Bevin Statement On Nepal

London, Dec. 11.

The Foreign Secretary, Mr Ernest Bevin, is to make a statement on Nepal as soon as Sir Esler Dening's report on his mission there has been received.

The Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr Ernest Davies, told the House of Commons today in reply to a question. — Reuter.

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NOTICE

THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of
THE HONGKONG SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN
will be held in
St. John's Cathedral Hall
on
Thursday, December 14 at 5.30 p.m.

All interested in Child Welfare are cordially invited to attend.

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